OCTOBER 1992

COMMUNITY VISION

The Pikes Peak Gay & Lesbian Community Center

P.O. Box 574 Colorado Springs, CO 80901 Volume XIII, No. 10

Register This Week

Friday Oct. 9 is Registration Deadline

This election is one of the most important in recent history, both nationally and locally.

In addition to the three presidential candidates, George Bush, Ross Perot and Bill Clinton, there will be two others on the ballot. There should be SOMEONE you can find to vote for. You can cast a "protest" vote without actually throwing away your vote.

The local issues, naturally, will include Amendment 2. This alone should be reason for you to register -- and VOTE on November 3. Historically and sadly, this city has more than its share of people who think "someone else" will do the job. This is not only a perfect time to reverse the trend, but if we don't get our act together, we could all be sorry (and unemployed and homeless) in the near future, and it could last longer than we could imagine.

There are "mobile" voter registration booths set up around the city at places such as grocery stores and the shopping malls. If you don't go to these places, you should go to Centennial Hall on South Cascade and register there. It takes only 3-4 minutes

Talking about it isn't enough. It's time we showed Colorado for Family Values once and for all that we have families, and we have values. PLEASE don't procrastinate on this one!▼

Showcase

Southern Colorado AIDS Project

October is National AIDS Awareness Month, and as proclaimed by Mayor Robert Isaac, AIDS Awareness Month in Colorado Springs, too. It is appropriate, therefore, to feature one of the most outstanding organizations that serves so many members of our community: the Southern Colorado AIDS Project, or S-CAP.

S-CAP was established in 1986. At that time it was an information source and coordinating agency. Today it has an office (514 South Tejon), two full time and paid staff members, and volunteers numbering well over one hundred. S-CAP has established formal lines of communications and programs with key health care operations throughout southern Colorado.

S-CAP exists to provide support to HIV positive individuals, their families, and loved ones. S-CAP works to increase community awareness through education of behaviors associated with the transmission of the virus and related issues in Colorado Springs, Pueblo, and to all borders of Southern Colorado.

Only a few months ago S-CAP heard that it had been granted United Way funding; it already receives funds from the Ryan White Care Act, and during 1991 received grants from the Colorado Springs Junior League, TRW Employees Assistance Fund, Colorado Springs Osteopathic Foundation

See S-CAP...Page 4

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Community Center News

PPGLCC Mission Statements

The mission of the Pikes Peak Gay and Lesbian Community Center is to:

1. Assist lesbians, gay men and bisexual and trans-gendered people in reaching their full potential as human beings.
2. Promote understanding, cooperation, and a sense of community among lesbians, gay men and bisexual and transgendered people.
3. Promote, within society at large, an appreciation of the history, culture and contributions of lesbians, gay men and bisexual and transgendered people.
4. Assist society at large in understanding the lives of lesbians, gay men and and bisexual and trans-gendered people.
5. Promote acceptance by society at large of lesbians, gay men and bisexual and transgendered people.

COMMUNITY VISION is published on the first of each month under the direction of the Board of Directors of the Pikes Peak Gay & Lesbian Community Center (PPGLCC).

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Pikes Peak Gay & Lesbian Community Center

Board of Directors

Alan Cook, Alan Gentry, Bruce Coriell, Cheryl C., Dennis Lujan, Margi Duncombe, Marion Harrison, Jacquelyn St. Gregory, John Mark Hild, Lisa L., Marion Muhme, Martin Meier, Mark Merriman, Pam Jones, Robin Miller

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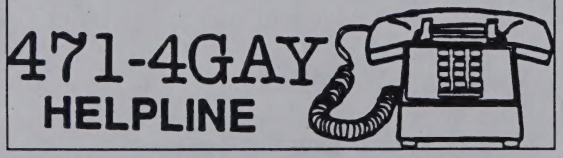
Vice President: Martin Meier
Secretary: John Mark Hild

Senior Staff

Norma Berndt



The PPGLCC Provides You Local Support

The Pikes Peak Gay & Lesbian Community uses the advertising revenue from *Community Vision* and money from annual dues (and generous donations!) to sponsor and finance the following activities:

- The annual Community Congress
- The annual Pride Week, including the Pride Parade
- The Helpline, answering over 1000 calls for information per year
- Referrals to 24 support groups/organizations in the Pikes Peak Area
- Third Thursday Open Forum held monthly
- Publishing of *Community Vision* monthly

Board of Directors Meeting, September 25, 1992

The board of directors appointed Gary P. as membership director and Lisa L. as program development director. These are two very important positions to the future of the community center, and the talents of these two people will enhance the center's ability to better accomplish its goals.

The board is investigating the possibility of sponsoring a group to participate in the highway clean-up program. It is felt that this would be an excellent way to show ourselves as an active and contributing part of the Colorado Springs community. This idea was one suggested by the discussions at the Community Congress on September 18.

The Helpline is expanding the Saturday hours. It will now be staffed from 3-9 PM. The Helpline is in need of volunteers (as are the other community center projects and committees). To volunteer, call the Helpline at 471-4GAY.

The Audio-Text Hotline committee is in contact with a company selling the equipment needed to put the audio-text phone system into operation. An anonymous company has a system available that should fit our needs at a greatly reduced price. Martin Meier is continuing negotiations on this project.

The Youth & Family Outreach committee has decided to wait until after the November elections to set a plan of action. The outcome of the Amendment 2 vote will profoundly effect the committee plans and how the committee can remain effective during the coming year.

The board acknowledged the decisions of Matt Frum, Deb Contreras, Jillian Roberts and Regina Dipadova not to be included on the slate of board members for fiscal 1993. The board accepted the additions of Cheryl C., Alan Gentry, Jacquelyn St. Gregory and Lisa L. to the slate of prospective board members scheduled for approval at the General Membership Meeting.

The community center will sponsor a "Jubilee" in November, with a date to be announced pending space availability in Worner Center. This will be a celebration of our community and ourselves, with entertainment, FUN and food. Area organizations will be on hand to share this evening with the center, and to make information on their groups available to the community.▼

Community Center News

Annual General Membership Meeting

The General Membership voted on two important issues at this meeting. The new set of by-laws, put together by the board of directors and several other concerned members, was passed. These by-laws allow for a larger board of directors with protections written in to guarantee a diverse board membership, representative of the interests of the gay and lesbian community. The new by-laws streamline the selection and voting process for members of the board of directors.

The membership also voted to accept the slate of board of directors for fiscal 1993. These are: Cheryl Cole, Jacquelyn St. Gregory, Alan Gentry, Lisa Leckenly, Alan Cook, Bruce Coriell, Dennis Lujan, John Mark Hild, Margi Duncombe, Marion Muhme, Marion harrison, Mark Merriman, Martin Meier, Pam Jones, and Robin Miller. These 15 members will serve on the board of directors for a term of one year. The board of directors will elect officers at their first meeting.

There was a review of the past year, including talk about the Pride Parade, community Congress, and the expansion of the board of directors and community center staff. The membership has tripled in the last year and it was stated that this growth shows every indication of continuing.

The membership discussed the significance of sustaining the growth and betterment of the center. The need to come together as a community, in spite of our differences, was stressed as being of continuing importance.

The membership was in support of the continuation of the ongoing projects and committees and confident in the center's success in the future.▼

Letters:

Just a short note from a member, concerning PPGLCC bylaws. Due to the current political situation caused by the religious right, you may want to consider changing the II Mission, C-2 and C-3, concerning legislation and political campaigns. I believe the wording should reflect a strong stand against discrimination of any kind and a willingness to fight any such discrimination.

Thanks for listening,
Bruce Janzen

The community center can't engage in political activity. That is a condition of our tax-exempt status granted by the Internal Revenue Service.

We do, however, attempt to include in this newsletter pertinent political information so our members are aware of issues and able to act individually as they see fit. GV.▼

An Open Letter From the Center Historian

Did you know that in 1975 a Gay Caucus existed in Colorado Springs? Although it doesn't seem that long ago we have already traced our local gay and lesbian history back that far. We are now in urgent need of new input to update our

See OPEN LETTER...Page 4

Membership Application
Pikes Peak Gay & Lesbian Community Center

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/ZIP: _____

Telephone: _____

I subscribe to the Mission Statement of the PPGLCC as printed on page 2 of this newsletter.

Signature: _____

Please send application and $10.00 ($15.00 household) for one-year membership to PPGLCC, P. O. Box 574, Colorado Springs, CO 80901.

Community News

S-CAP...from Page 1

and the Ryan White Care Act. This funding has supported the phenomenal expansion of the services that S-CAP offers today.

The programs and services provided by S-CAP include hot meals, emergency financial support, peer support programs, hospital visits, bus passes, access to limited medical equipment such as walkers and wheelchairs, workshop scholarships, emergency food and shelter, a buddy program, and educational programs.

S-CAP makes referrals to its clients for doctors, dentists, legal advice to include estate planning and tax planning. They refer to Colorado Resources, and HIV testing locations and counseling services

Other services provided by S-CAP include a quarterly newsletter for more than 600 subscribers, ongoing training and luncheon programs for volunteers as well as general education programs for the public. In addition, S-CAP maintains a library of current newsletters and articles. A television and VCR are available to review tapes. S-CAP also participates in local health fairs and trade shows.

In recognition of National AIDS Awareness Month, executive director Richard Blair has announced an October 14 Open House at the S-CAP office, followed by a march to Acacia Park where there will be a Celebration of Life, including music and speakers (see Page 15). If you're interested in attending please call the S-CAP office for details.

Other acknowledgments of National AIDS Awareness Month have included the beginning of a series of billboards in Colorado Springs (designed by the Smokebrush Foundation, and a concert last Tuesday at the Fine Arts Center, presented by Soundscapes.

S-CAP is a member of the Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce and the Colorado AIDS Coalition for Education. S-CAP works actively with the Governor's AIDS Council and numerous local and state agencies.

Richard Blair and Beth Bowman, the case manager, are happy to discuss any aspect of S-CAP with you. You can get testing information, including the anonymous test site in Denver. If you are HIV+ this organization can make your life easier in ways you never imagined.

John Miller, the president of the S-CAP board of directors, extended his thanks to the members of the community center, and the gay community, for their continued and outstanding support. If you would like to contribute to this tradition by volunteering, you will discover a need for your talents, no matter what they are, and you will know the satisfaction that comes from helping out those who truly appreciate whatever you can offer. The telephone number is 578-9092.

If you're near the office, drop your spare change into the big blue bottle. They accept money, too!▼

OPEN LETTER...from Page 3

archives on our community. That is the purpose of this letter.

We need information and/or documentation about people or events pertaining to our local gay and lesbian heritage. Old copies of *Gayspeak*, newsletters, event information and programs, bar openings and closings, etc., all would be of great help. Any word on legal matters pertaining to us as a community would be appreciated, too.

We are looking for names and/or information on our friends and loved ones who have passed away during the last 20 years. Our archives are open to the community, and these names belong in our memory as well as our history. We would like to include birth dates, dates of death, occupations, and anything you would like to have included. This may be hard for some to cope with, but our gay anad lesbian brothers and sisters were a part of what we are today. Their presence in our history needs to be documented.

Please send all information to me at the Community Center: P.O. Box 574, Colorado Springs, CO 80901.

Thank you, Dennis Lujan, PPGLCC Historian▼

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Community News

Coronation 1992
Mardigras at the Court

What do costumes, Mardi Gras and Halloween have in common? The answer is October 17th at the City Auditorium. Drag out those Halloween costumes from the closet early this year and join the festive occasion to be held at 221 East Kiowa in the Colorado Springs City Auditorium. **Mardigras: Coronation 1992**, sponsored by the United Court of the Rising Sun Empire, will begin on Saturday, October 17th, with doors opening at 5:00 PM. The ball will start promptly at 6:00 PM. Tickets are $17 in advance, and $20 at the door.

This annual gala is the culmination of the 1992 campaign for Emperor and Empress XVII, and members of their Board of Advisors. These people will be the ones to lead the Court and fund raising activities over the next year. If you haven't had the opportunity to meet the candidates, you may find them at various shows and functions at both the Hide & Seek and the Penthouse. The final All Candidates Shows will be at the Hide & Seek on Saturday, October 10th, at 10:30 PM and midnight. Letters to the community from each of the three candidates follow this article.

Voting for candidates will be held in the Branding Iron bar (at the Hide & Seek) on Sunday, October 11, from noon until 5:00 PM. Any resident of Southern Colorado may vote. You will need a Colorado drivers license or other proof of residence (a utility bill or phone bill with your name and address is acceptable). Please come out to vote. Contests can be close, and your vote can make the difference.

Tickets may be purchased from candidates running for the positions of Emperor, Empress or the Board of Advisors, or from the treasurer of the board, Bob Steinborn. Tickets are also available at the hospitality suite at the Holiday Inn Central (8th Street) on Friday, October 16, from 2-6 PM, and on Saturday, October 17, from 10 AM - 3 PM.

Any in-town organization making an entrance at Coronation should turn in the music and protocol to people at the hospitality suite on Friday. SEE YOU THERE!▼

Tammi Lynn Noel,
Candidate for Empress XVII

To the Community of Southern Colorado:

My name is Tammi Lynn Noel, candidate for Empress XVII.

Though not a Colorado native, I have lived most of my life in Colorado, either on the western slope, Denver or here in Colorado Springs. I graduated from Widefield High School and went to Olympic Beauty Academy here in Colorado Springs. I was involved in the first female impersonator shows produced at the Hide & Seek with the "Peek-a-Boo Review."

I served as one of Nicki Lee's campaign managers when she ran for Empress III of the Imperial Court, when it was still a state wide organization; and I was involved when Nicki and Shel were made Count and Countess of Southern Colorado.

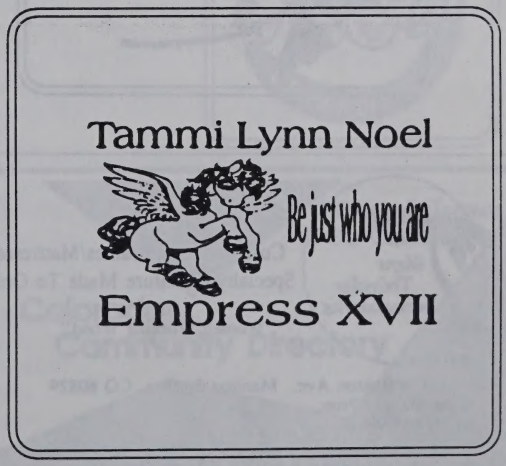
I moved to Denver a short time after and became involved with the court systems in Denver for the next fourteen years. During this time, I was not only involved in fund raising for the courts, but I also raised money for many area organizations and charities. I had the honor of serving the Denver community as Empress III of The Sovereign Court of the People of Denver during this time.

I have always kept my ties with the Colorado Springs community, through the Court, of course, and by doing shows and attending functions in this city.

I moved back to Colorado Springs in December of 1990 and started work at The Colorado Grill in March of 1991, where I am still employed. I have been involved in the Court and other organizations since that time. I have had the opportunity to do shows and fund raisers for the Lambda House, Just Vote No, the Community Center, S-CAP, CGRA and many other charities. I'm a member of the Community Center, the United Court (holding the titles of Entertainer to the Empress and Mistress of Protocol), and CGRA (serving on the board as co-chair of the Entertainment committee). I also had the privilege of serving as Miss PPUR for our rodeo this year.

As I said on my application for Empress XVII, I believe my track record speaks for itself. I would appreciate your support in continuing my efforts to help support our community on October 11th.

Tammi Lynn Noel▼



Community News

Gary Saiz
Candidate for Emperor XVII

I, Gary Saiz, the Black Rose, am proud to declare my candidacy for the position of Emperor XVII of the United Court of the Rising Sun Empire.

Originally from Pueblo, I moved to Salt Lake City in 1976. In 1977 I moved to Denver and lived there for 13 years. I was employed in civil services for 9 years at Lowry Air Force Base, where I received 4 years of accounting experience. I have also been a hair stylist for 12 years. I am currently employed at Cloth World. I also volunteer my time to the community as an entertainer and supporter for all organizations.

My goal this coming year for the United Court of the Rising Empire as candidate for Emperor XVII is to see our community re-united. I also will become a strong supporter for all charities and community organizations.

I encourage everyone to vote on October 11 at the Branding Iron from 12:00 to 5:00 PM, and remember to VOTE NO on AMENDMENT 2 in November!

Gary Saiz▼

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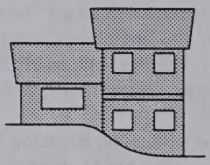

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Bruce Littrell
Candidate for Emperor XVII

I am proud to declare my candidacy for the position of Emperor XVII of the United Court of the Rising Sun Empire.

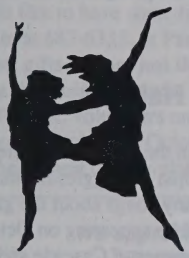
Originally from Wichita, KS, where I majored in Music Education at KU and WSU, I moved to Manitou Springs, accepting a position with the Iron Springs Chateau. For the past 14 years I have been an owner, manager, producer and director, a background of skills I believe I can apply to the position of Emperor.

My first introduction to the Court came in 1984 when approached by Emperor VII Tim with plans for a Court Night at the Iron Springs Chateau, now an annual function. I became increasingly active working on campaign staffs, volunteering for events, performing, and most recently fulfilling the duties of the office of vice-president of the board of advisors. I find the philosophy of the Court, which is to raise money in fun, entertaining ways for redistribution into the community, to be a very worthwhile effort.

The goal this year for the Court must be revitalization. Through our united effort we can once again become the stronghold supporters of the charities and fellow organizations of our community.

Therefore I respectfully request your YES vote on October 11 at the Branding Iron between noon and 5:00 PM. And please remember to vote NO ON 2 in November!

Bruce Littrell▼



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Community News

Diversity (Gay BBS) Offers Discount to Community Center Members

Lambda Net , the gay computer bulletin board service, has been sold. It now has a new name, a new location, a new telephone number, a new Community Center bulletin board, and a new price structure that includes a special discount for Community Center members.

The new name is Diversity, indicating a willingness to have as members anyone interested in our community. There are quite a few "gay-friendly" straight people as members. The telephone number has changed to 685-1080, with four lines. By May of next year, the plans call for the number of incoming lines to grow to 8, then 16, and finally to 32.

The main menu includes teleconferencing, Droids and Quest for Magic (both games), information about the BBS, the SIGs and a file library, classified ads, electronic mail, your account/status display, and a registry of all users.

The most visible change to date is the addition of several new SIGs, which are bulletin boards for Special Interest Groups. The current list of SIGS, each of which has its own teleconferencing areas, include general, mixed graphics, male graphics, gay information, fantasy, Community Center information, men's space, womyn's space, mixed space, and HIV/AIDS information. The Community Center SIG will be used to post notices of all kinds from the center, and it will double as a way for BBS members to get information and comments to the newsletter staff.

The new price structure is as follows: $3.50 per month allows you to spend one hour per day on the bulletin board; $4.75 per month allows you to spend 1½ hours per day; and $7.00 per month allows you to be on the BBS for two hours per day. The discounts, for Community Center members only, are a 50 cents off all above prices. As always, you can call DIVERSITY any time and look around free of charge before deciding to join.▼

DIGNITY/Southern Colorado NEWS

Now that summer is over, DIGNITY/Southern Colorado will be planning some social activities. A Thanksgiving potluck is scheduled for the third Saturday of November and a Christmas party is planned for the third Saturday of December.

DIGNITY/Southern Colorado, a group for gay, lesbian and bisexual Catholics and their friends, families and supporters, meets twice monthly on the first and third Saturdays at 7 p.m. at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 21st St. at W. Colorado Ave. Meeting dates in October are the 3rd and 17th. Mass begins promptly at 7 p.m. followed by an informal social gathering.

Beginning in October, a monthly discussion group and potluck will organize. Discussions of interest to gay, lesbian and bisexual Catholics will be held at these gatherings. For meeting date and time plus additional information, call our contact line at 635-5773.

To date, nearly 40 people have attended DIGNITY/ Southern Colorado. An August meeting with Bishop Richard C. Hanifen was very successful and more meetings with the bishop are planned, including one scheduled for Monday, November 2, 1992. Outreach efforts to the Pueblo community have also begun.

If you know anyone in Pueblo who may be interested, or if you would like more information, please contact Michael at 635-5773 or write to him in care of DIGNITY/Southern Colorado, P.O. Box 1172, Colorado Springs, CO 80901.▼

Fred Small in Concert October 16 at Packard Hall

Fred Small is a folk singer in the tradition of Pete Seeger. He sings songs about people's struggles for human justice and freedom, including many songs about the gay and lesbian struggles. Fred Small will be appearing on October 16 at 8:00 PM in Packard Hall (SW corner of Cascade and Cache la Poudre) on the Colorado College campus.▼

EPOC Benefit Scheduled For Oct 16 at All Souls

Voices and Connections, an evening celebrating women through story, music and drama, will be fund raiser for EPOC. The show will be on Friday, October 16, at 8:00 PM, at All Souls Unitarian Church, 730 North Tejon. Tickets are $10 ($5 for the financially challenged), and are available at Abaton Book Store, and at the door on the night of the performance.▼

Audiotext Hotline Update

After months of preparation and fund raising the PPGLCC Audiotext Hotline is soon to become a reality. Martin Meier and Jim, one of the new owners of "Diversity" (formerly Lambda Net), are completing negotiations to purchase the equipment and softare for the Audiotext system. Programming and configuration of the system will begin the first week of October.

The Audiotext system will allow anyone in the Colorado Springs area to call our current Helpline number (471-4429) and listen to a series of prerecorded messages about our community. The caller can also leave messages to an organization/support group or even be patched through to a live helpline volunteer. The system will also allow folks in

Community News

our area to choose from a large number of commonly asked questions about gay and lesbian people. This portion of the system is meant to educate the public at large.

"Our goal is to have the system up and running before election day in hopes to generate some publicity in local papers," reports Martin. "We need volunteers to organize the text, write press releases, help with programming and record the messages to make our mid October deadline." If you would like to get involved with the PPGLCC Audiotext Hotline please call Martin at 687-6335 or Pam at 578-0412.▼

Poinsettia Deadline October 19

The PPGLCC autumn fund raiser is going well. This year we are selling florist quality red poinsettia plants. If you would like to have some tickets to sell these plants please call Martin at 687-6335, or Pam at 578-0412. These plants make perfect gifts and are just the thing to spruce up your home or office this holiday season. The plants will be hand delivered by PPGLCC volunteers on December 5 and 6. The deadline for ordering plants is October 19. This ensures that we will get the highest quality plants available.▼

We appreciate Our Advertisers. Please Support Them!

Advertising Rates

Business Card	**$ 5.00**
1/8 page	**10.00**
1/4 page	**15.00**
1/2 page	**20.00**
Full page (except back)	**30.00**
Back page	**35.00**

These rates are for camera ready copy.

We request all ads be pre-paid to eliminate billing costs.

Barroom Happenings (!)

At the **Penthouse** , 597-3314

Oct. 7 - Imperial Court Campaign Show, 10:00 PM
Oct 10 - MCC and EPOC Benefit Auction, 8:00 PM
Oct 17 - The Penthouse Male Review, 10"00 PM
Oct 31 - Halloween Bash, all night long!

At the **Hide & Seek**, 634-9303

Oct 10 - All Candidates Show, 10:30 & midnight
Oct 11 - Coronation voting, noon - 5:00 PM▼

A Community Center Membership Helps Defray the Costs of Operating the Helpline and Publishing this Newsletter

Please Join Today!

PPGLCC Fund Raiser

Poinsettia Order Form

Please send me _____ poinsettia plants @ $15.00, or $12.50 each for orders of two or more. **Payment in full** is enclosed (make checks payable to PPGLCC).

NOTE: Poinsettia plants will be delivered by a PPGLCC volunteer on December 5 and 6. Deadline for oders is October 19. Return this form to PPGLCC, P.O. Box 574, Colorado Springs, CO 80901.

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Address _____

City _____

State/ZIP _____

Phone(s) _____

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Two-fers 10:30am to 8pm
Lunch 11am-3pm in the Colorado Grill

MAN STOP

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6pm-9pm in the Colorado Grill

Hide & Seek Complex
506,510 & 512 W. Colorado Avenue
Colorado Springs, CO 634-9303

Weekly Calendar of Events

Monday	Tuesday	Wed.	Thur.	Friday	Saturday
No Cover $3.00 Pitcher of Beer $1.00 Schnapps 8pm-2am	No Cover Two-fers All Day & Night Free Pool 9pm-1am	No Cover 25¢ Drink Night 9pm-12am 2-Fers every half hour 12am-2am Live DJ	No Cover $3 Pitchers $1 Schnaaps $2.75 Long Island Ice Tea Benefit Show 11pm FREE Country Dance Lessons-Branding Iron 8pm	No Cover in Branding Iron Show night 10:50pm and 12:10am 2-fers every hour 1/4 Million dollar sound and light system, two large dance floors	No Cover in Branding Iron Show night 10:50pm and 12:10am 2-fers every hour 1/4 Million dollar sound and light system, two large dance floors

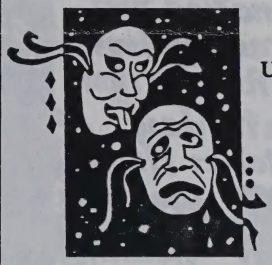
BRANDING IRON

Community News

Upstart Playhouse Announces October Schedule

"Cat on a Hot Tin Roof" will be playing October 1-4 at 8:00 PM, and October 8-11 at 8:00 PM. There are matinees of October 10 and 11 at 2:00 PM. It seems there is a Tennessee Williams revival of sorts happening in Colorado Springs this month. If "Can on a Hot Tin Roof" is something you want to see, Upstart is the place to see it.

The Halloween season will be properly acknowledged with the introduction of the Theater of Cruelty and Pain, or Grand Guinol. This type of performance originated in Paris around the turn of the century and was popularly named after the theater in which the performances frequently occurred. It is an early 20th century predecessor of today's horror films, as if Edgar Allen Poe had been a producer instead of a writer.



UPSTART PERFORMING ENSEMBLE
2 W. Las Vegas
COLORADO SPRINGS
CO 80906

(719) 634-9441

Grand Guinol was experimental; and the plays were written by those fascinated with the darker side of human nature. They are morality tales. For example, a philandering husband may, at the end of the play, fall out of a window and die. Instant retribution. Doctors searching for a cure to insanity, or attempting to discover the purpose of human existence on earth. But in Grand Guinol, the result would more likely be mad scientist surgery!

This was controversial in Paris in the late 1800s, whose population considered it low life theater compared to their usual fare of grand opera. It was shocking to the audience, with the result of a regular presence of real doctors in the theater to take care of real people who fainted from real fright.

The people at Upstart wanted to do something a little different for the Halloween season. These one act plays, they believe, will shock you appropriately, and maybe even get you to think about the still-unanswered questions that inspired the plays a hundred years ago. The Grand Guinol may not be appealing to everyone, but it is sure to be compelling to many who have never been to a live theater performance before. There is an advertising campaign including Denver for this production; call early for your tickets!

The Grand Guinol performances are October 28-29 at 8:00 PM, and October 30-31 at 8:00 PM and midnight. If you come to either midnight performance in costume, your treat will be a half price ticket. For prices and other information, call upstart at 634-9441.▼

Put Your Ideas Into Action for the 1993 Pride Parade

Join the Community Center Today

The United Court of the Rising Sun Empire

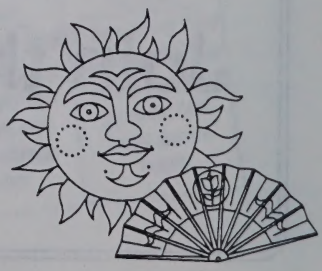
presents

Mardigras: Coronation 1992

Tickets: $17 in advance, $20 at the door

Tickets on sale at Holiday Inn Central
(the Hospitality Suite)
Friday, October 16, from 2 PM - 6 PM, and
Saturday, October 17, from 10 AM - 3 PM

Doors open at the City Auditorium
Saturday, October 17, at 5 PM



Political Opinion

Guest Column

Views on Amendment 2

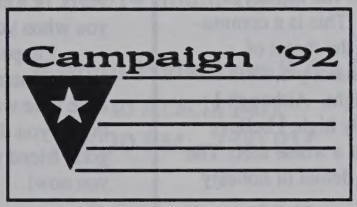
The names of the two guest columnists were omitted last month. ***Smear the Queer*** *was written by Jim S., and* ***Killer Parties*** *was written by John Coniff.*

This month's guest columns are written by Tom Watson of Denver and Sam Broomall of Cascade. Tom is the director of GLAAD, the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, in Denver; his article was just featured in the fall issue of GLAAD News and is reprinted here with his permission. Sam is a concerned private citizen with strong feelings about Amendment 2 and its possible impact on AIDS awareness, research and funding -- particularly during this AIDS Awareness Month.

Last Chance for Dignity

by Tom Watson

As we move into the final days of the No On 2 campaign, the fine folks at Colorado for Family Values will intensify their attacks on the gay and lesbian community. One "eagerly" anticipated attack is a television commercial produced with the assistance of the Oregon Citizen's Alliance, a sister group of CFV attempting to eradicate equal rights as well as expressions of lesbian and gay culture in Oregon.



The commercial contains images of last year's San Francisco Lesbian and Gay Freedom Day Parade and the parade's most outrageous celebrants: nude dancers, drag queens, leather aficionados, people brandishing dildos and costumes satirizing religious figures. **"This is what Gay Rights means"** is flashed over the images while the scenes are intercut with banners of groups such as P-FLAG and other community support organizations. CFV has already purchased air time on several Colorado stations and it is rumored that the OCA commercial will be a major portion of their television ad campaign in support of Amendment 2.

Be on the lookout for these ads and prepare to respond to CFV's lies and distortions in your local newspaper. Yes, the lesbian and gay community has its outlandish elements (just like straights -- look at Mardi Gras), but diversity is not a crime (yet) and has no bearing on equal protection.

Also, keep monitoring your local community papers -- they are more likely to print unsubstantiated "evidence" of gay "perversity." Counter these reports with letters that are short and to the point. Don't be misled by the rhetoric! Amendment 2 singles out a specific group of people and denies them their rights regardless of their behavior. It cancels the "home rule" provisions of the Colorado Constitution which allows local communities self-governance powers to decide for themselves what is best for their community.

Don't preach to the choir! There are plenty of people who may not like homosexuals, but will side with us based on the "home rule" and civil rights aspects of this issue. Speak to their concerns and to democratic values.▼

Homophobia, AIDS and Amendment 2

by Sam Broomall

When asked to write about AIDS Awareness Month, my initial reaction was to spew forth all of the latest statistics and trends; to warn any and all readers, gay, lesbian or straight, to protect themselves and not end up like me -- living with AIDS. However, after some time with my thoughts I began to consider a larger picture regarding the disease we battle. The true disease we fight is called **homophobia** -- not AIDS. Our awareness regarding AIDS is over 10 years old. By now we know what it feels like to see a friend die and how to protect ourselves from HIV. What we may not see is the direct consequences of the hate and fear that surrounds us.

My belief is that the homophobia we confront a la Amendment 2 is at the very core of why the AIDS epidemic has been so devastating to our gay brothers and lesbian sisters across this land. In fact, "Colorado For Family Values" has gone to great lengths to blame the epidemic on the gay community, as retribution for a hedonistic lifestyle. I contend that the extend of the AIDS epidemic on our community is, rather, the result of a homophobic government which looks the other way when any "undesirable" group is oppressed. The fact that it was okay for gay men in the 80s to die is ignored. The fact that it was the gays and lesbians in the cities hit first and hardest by HIV who lead the crusade for prevention, education and research for "all" people is overlooked. The fact that it took someone like Magic Johnson to come out of his HIV closet for America to start caring is not discussed. That his life has more perceived value than mine, not considered. The fact that the Bush administration is cutting spending for AIDS research and education is not protested. And, the facts about the full impact of a global epidemic, to keep the myth of the "Gay Disease" alive, are dangerously concealed.

It is true that, to date, 58% of those lost to AIDS in this country were gay. It is also true that gays account for roughly 10% of the population. We have learned that HIV spreads quicker through relatively smaller groups within the overall population. Currently it is spreading at an alarming rate through new groups such as teenagers, people of color, and women. In fact, AIDS is now the leading cause of death for

See SAM BROOMALL...Page 14

Political Opinion

SAM BROOMALL...from Page 13

women between the ages of 25 and 44 in New York City. According to the World Health Organization, by the end of this decade, 30-40 million people on this planet will be HIV positive. And yet, those possessed with hate continue to point a blaming finger, as their children and friends continue spreading the virus unknowingly because they are not "high risk." AIDS is clearly not a gay disease. It is a disease that, unlike human beings, does not discriminate. It is a disease that kills our brothers, sisters, children and loved ones.

And what of the disease called Hate? What are the direct consequences on the typical homophobic town like Colorado Springs? So much of my perspective on being gay and living with AIDS results from my moving here a little more than a year ago from New York. Living in this environment has forced me to appreciate a freedom I left behind -- a freedom that the average gay and lesbian in Colorado does not enjoy. My friends back east are coming out of the HIV closet; here my friends struggle with "THE" closet. Here we feat loss of employment, housing and rejection from family and friends. Here, we are years behind other cities in terms of gay rights; years behind in experiencing the full impact of AIDS. The result, from my point of view: This is a community that, until now, has been paralyzed by the threat of discrimination; this is a community that has not yet taken the step forward, out of the dark and into the light. Although I acknowledge that the risks are tremendously high, I believe the alternative is continued victimization of a worse sort. The denial of who we are as human beings; the denial of honesty and integrity in our lives.

Amendment 2 is the Wake Up Call for Colorado Springs. We must continue to come together as a group, for there is power in numbers. We must stop allowing ourselves to be discriminated against. For those who can afford to come out, we as a community must stand behind and support them. To do so takes courage and warrants respect from us all. For those who can not take this risk yet, they must be better at supporting organizations such as the Southern Colorado AIDS Project (S-CAP), where the bulk of the volunteers are people living with AIDS, their families and a handful of wonderful straight friends. We must be aware that AIDS affects us all and that it is equally important to provide care to those infected, as it is to educate all people about prevention. Further, there must be support for groups such as EPOC, P-FLAG, the Community Center and Citizens Project. To integrate ourselves as openly gay and lesbian with heterosexuals in an accepting environment such as P-FLAG or Citizens Project affords "them" the opportunity of truly knowing who we are and what we are not; and, it allows us to begin to feel safe and secure about being "out" without fear of discrimination. These groups can act as a shield and serve on our behalf. We need these organizations because the fight will not be over on November 3, this is just the beginning.

This is a turning point in our community's history. Let AIDS Awareness Month also be Gay Awareness Month. Let the thought of each begin in your heart, clearly knowing the difference between what is right and what is wrong. The action you choose to take will have far reaching effects for you and for the people you care about. In other cities gay rights were not handed over easily. It took a drag queen with guts to throw that trash can at Stonewall a long time ago.

Who among us will say, "ENOUGH!"

Count me in!▼

It's always sad to finally accept that one of your friends has gone, and you'll never see each other again. You'll miss the times you spent together, whether it was a close friend with whom you shared both joy and tears over a period of years, or a casual friend who always said hello to you when you bumped into each other.

I hope when you read the names below that you'll remember these peoply fondly. Spend a little time with yourself and the memories of the things you did together. And try to be an equally good friend to someone else who probably needs you now!

David, July 24
Dennis, September 2
Herschel, September 3
Sasha, September 6
Randy, September 19
Jim, September 19

Help Fight Amendment 2

To participate, call:

Just Vote No! 635-4802
EPOColorado 593-6015
Citizens Project 685-9899

OCTOBER is

National AIDS Awareness Month

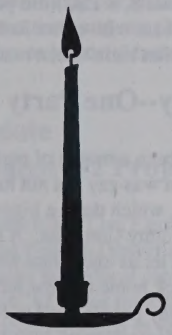
Please Join Us For A

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Presented by Southern Colorado AIDS Project

OCTOBER 14, 1992

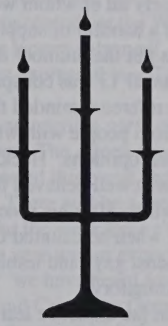
(If rained out, same times on October 15)



• Open House at S-CAP
4:30 PM - 6:30 PM
514 South Tejon

•Group Walk from S-CAP
to Acacia Park
6:30 PM - 7:00 PM

•Celebration of Life
Candlelight Tribute
7:00 PM - 8:00 PM



S-CAP
SOUTHERN COLORADO AIDS PROJECT

Special Music and Guest Speakers Scheduled
FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL S-CAP AT 578-9092

More on Politics

Will Perkins Gives Pitiful Performance At Colorado College Debate

Bruce Loeffler challenged Will Perkins to a debate a few weeks ago, and Perkins accepted. Bruce Loeffler represented people opposed to Amendment 2. He is a Colorado College geology professor and, more recently, a political activist working with EPOC, Citizens Project and Just Vote No! Will Perkins is chairman of the board of Colorado for Family Values, authors of Amendment 2, and represented that group. He is chairman of Perkins Chrysler-Plymouth-Alpha Romeo, and a graduate of Colorado College.

The debate format allowed Loeffler to speak first. His 4-6 minutes were matched by Perkins' 4-6 minutes, followed by timed rebuttals. Questions from the audience were answered by both individuals with a 2-minute time limit for those answers. Finally Perkins and Loeffler gave their closing statements.

Immediately obvious was the standing room only crowd, nearly all of whom were opposed to Amendment 2. There was a handful of supporters of Amendment 2; unofficial counts put that number at 6. Channels 5/30 and 11 were there; Channel 13 was conspicuous by its absence.

The referee reminded the audience of the importance of learning from people with whom we disagree, and their right to state their opinions. Heckling was not allowed. The audience was well behaved for the most part, cheering Loeffler wildly after his speeches, and interrupting Perkins only once when he claimed CFV had no intention of discriminating against gays and lesbians, and that Amendment 2 was not discriminatory.

What the audience learned was probably nothing. The debate served only for a reinforcement of what they already knew. Perkins hammered away at CFV's claim that gays and lesbians should not be allowed minority status. He spent one entire period challenging anyone to "prove" that he or she is gay: "How would we know?" He chose not to address the point that Amendment 2 would permit the firing of suspected gays, lesbians and bisexuals from their jobs, and no proof on anybody's part would be required.

When asked about CFV's mission statement and CFV's post-election goals, Perkins replied that their only purpose was to get Amendment 2 passed, and that after November the group would cease to exist. In other words, Colorado FOR Family Values isn't FOR anything; they are AGAINST civil rights for gays, lesbians and bisexuals. It was unfortunate this debate format didn't allow a rebuttal from Loeffler; it would have been good.

In response to Perkins' charge that the gay-lesbian-bisexual community could not demonstrate the necessary criteria to be designated as "protected" in their civil rights status, Loeffler replied that there already exists "no discrimination because of religion," which puts Christians in a protected group. He also stated that "no discrimination because of gender" applied to both men and women, and puts them into a protected group. He correctly noted that small businesses and churches are already exempt from any hiring quotas, and religious organizations are exempt from any and all discrimination clauses.

Perkins, a Colorado College graduate, had the audacity to compare himself as a used car salesman to gays and lesbians, stating that he "understood" and had even experienced the same type of discrimination. On September 21, at its monthly meeting, the faculty of Colorado College voted 73-4 to announce its opposition to Amendment 2.

The general concensus on this debate was that Bruce Loeffler won the debate in every way imaginable. Thanks to Loeffler's quick and precise thinking, Amendment 2 was exposed for what it is: outrageous, unfair, and indefensible. We can only hope the voting public sees what we already know!

Perkins is scheduled to make another appearance, this time on television (Channel 8, KTSC)(did you send your pledge yet?). He will debate with either Robin Miller or Bruce Loeffler; the decision hadn't been made a press time.▼

Build Community--One Party at a Time

by John Coniff

Although this has been a month of parties, the biggest social event of the season was gay but not happy: Sasha Dior's memorial service, which drew a bigger crowd than the following night's Community Congress. A friend of Sasha's who spoke at the service let us know that we were her family: if Sasha had relatives back home in New Jersey they didn't attend her funeral. We gay people need to remember that we are each other's family, regardless of blood relatives. Please support and love one another.

At the Community Congress the participants sat in small groups and discussed issues facing our community. We concluded (at least at my table) that the biggest problem the gay community faced in this town was getting people out of their houses and to events. No offense to dear Sasha, but it shouldn't take a funeral to bring a bunch of queers together.

The turnout--or lack thereof--to the congress was heavy on my mind when I discovered a new book at the Chinook: Jeanne Martinet's The Art of Mingling (St. Martins, $8.95). In our quest to throw--and attend--more parties, we need to arm ourselves with some basic social skills: the art of small talk, the ability to engage a person in brilliant conversation or dodge the deadly bore. Let's face it: vegging out in front of the living death box is no way to become witty and charming. Granted, it takes courage to go out and meet new people, but isn't it really much harder (at least on one's emotional state) to stay home and be lonely?

Because my life is an endless mardi gras I have attended some lovely parties this month, and I didn't have an invitation

to one of them. Let's see, there was that acid-hippie party where Miss Bodacious and other members of the Upstart Theater Group were to be seen, but really there wasn't much brilliant conversation taking place (except for an interesting discussion on the Marquis de Sade's *Justine* as a study in the complexities and intricacies of human relationships). Oh! and there was that Saturday night I had a date but no plan. We ran into a flaming lesbian friend who tipped us off on a birthday party: "look for the tall fence and listen for the music." Now here is a real lesson in party-crashing: we lay in ambush until some obvious queers came by and as luck would have it I knew somebody. Tagging along, we strolled behind them like we all had came in the same car. Once inside I ran into several people I knew so there was no problem. (A real expert would have brought a birthday gift just in case). And this past weekend I invited myself along to the GALA (the U.C.C.S. queer group) potluck. Potlucks are the easiest parties to crash: just bring some food and no one will turn you away, especially if its chocolate or liquor (I brought olives but I didn't fear being turned away.)

So my advice to all of you is get a copy of Martinet's book, and probably a copy of Miss Manners wouldn't hurt either, and get out there and mingle! We're queers, damn it, and we were born to be social butterflies.▼

HRCF Update
The Campaign '92 Project

Kathy Deitsch and Lisa Faust work with the Human Rights Campaign Fund in Denver as the area Speak Out supervisors. Kathy is the local canvass supervisor of the HRCF Campaign '92. This project, among other things, is an effort to get people registered to vote.

Deitsch, in an earlier press release, spoke about several candidates in this November's election who are sympathetic to gay issues. "Presidential hopeful Bill Clinton and running mate Al Gore provide the lesbian/gay community a strong choice for the November election. And in Colorado, US Senate candidate Ben Nighthorse Campbell and congresspersons Pat Schroeder and David Skaggs have pledged their support to issues of concern to the gay/lesbian community. Schroeder and Campbell are co-sponsors of the legislation to end the military ban on gays and lesbians and the civil rights legislation that would protect us in areas of employment and housing. Rep. Skaggs has committed to join the Colorado delegation in co-sponsorship of the gay/lesbian civil rights legislation when Congress convenes again in September."

If you are interested in house parties planned in Denver this month to help put Clinton in the White House, or information about where these candidates will appear to rally the gay/lesbian vote for the upcoming election, contact Kathy Deitsch in Denver at 455-2744.▼

Colorado News

Aspen Gay Ski Week Begins January 24
Call your Travel Agent!

Tom Mooney, our buddy in Aspen and director of the Aspen Gay & Lesbian Community, sends us the following information. This annual event is a terrific chance for people in Colorado Springs to meet gays and lesbians from around the world. You will experience the party of all parties, in the resort of all resorts, and at prices that make everything very much worthwhile. The timing, you should note, is perfect for chasing away those post-Christmas blues. Get a group together and split the price of a condo!

Aspen Gay Ski Week is a growing social phenomenon: It is a loose federation of non-profit social and/or sorts oriented groups following the Walter Paepke vision of Aspen being a gathering place for both the body and the mind. So, besides the hedonistic parties given by the clubs, there are cultural events ranging from gay comedy at the Wheeler Opera House to a Dave Pallone lecture (planned(. Also, new this year, there has been interest expressed in a Gay Film Fest: currently it looks good.

Ski Week '93 starts with an opening party on January 24 in the Hotel Jerome Ballroom. The Aspen Gay & Lesbian Community has traditionally hosted this event and this year we will have additional room. There will be a program which includes a schedule of events for the week listing the parties, dinners, and other events. This year we are expecting anywhere from 3,000 to 4,000: we have heard from new groups from all over the USA and Canada to Germany and Australia! Some of the feedback we got includes, "Gay Heaven!" and "I'm stoked for another trip."

You should know that the Aspen Gay & Lesbian Community held a fund raiser earlier this year, and from the proceeds contributed $500 to EPOC and $500 to Just Vote No! in Colorado Springs. This money is being used to help an advertising campaign in the Gazette Telegraph in the weeks just prior to the November election. Your attendance in the Aspen Gay Ski Week is a great way to say Thanks to all the people in Aspen who have already been so helpful to us in Colorado Springs. Details? Call Greg Varner, 633-6383.▼

A Community Center Membership Includes a Subscription to *Community Vision*
Join Today!

National News

International March on United Nations Only 20 Short Months Away

This is early, and you don't need to call your travel agent just yet. But if you are interested, June 26, 1994, will be the International March on the United Nations to Affirm the Human Rights of Lesbian and Gay People. The organizing meeting has been announced for January 15-17, 1993, in Dallas, TX.

The meeting in Dallas will have people representing lesbian, gay, bisexual and AIDS-related organizations throughout the United States. The March and Rally will be the largest of several hundred events planned for June and July in New York City, and around the world to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Stonewall Rebellion in New York City. The Stonewall Rebellion is considered by many to be the beginning of the contemporary lesbian/gay movement.

If you are interested in more information about this event, contact the editors, P.O. Box 574, Colorado Springs, CO 80901, or leave a message on the Helpline, 471-4GAY.▼

National Coming Out Day is October 11

Why come out?

Read the Mission Statement of the National Coming Out Day:

"On a daily basis we face the homophobia that has cost us, lesbians and gay men, our sense of dignity and self worth and, all too often, our lives. We are mindful of the invisibility of our community in most places. As long as the overwhelming majority of our community remains closeted we will continue to be dismissed, omitted and brutalized by others and ourselves. National Coming Out Day is a call to action, a campaign about truth, power and liberation that culminates every year on October 11, the day for each of us, and our organizations, to take our next step in the coming out process"

Our silence is killing us. Our silence is allowing society to define who we are and what we can hope to achieve in life. Our silence is allowing ignorance and intolerance to paly decisive roles in such life threatening matters as AIDS funding, patient care, child custody, teen suicide, substance abuse, etc.

Our invisibility is the core of our oppression. We experience hate, fear and prejudice because people don't know who we are. But we know. We are their sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, and mothers and fathers.

The truth is we are everywhere. We are soldiers, teachers, clergy, secretaries, artists, elected officials, bankers, mechanics, architects, truck drivers, scientists, and, yes, designers. We work in every profession...at every level. We touch the lives of millions of people who don't think they know anyone gay or lesbian. That's what we get for hiding.

Your coming out can help turn ignorance into acceptance. Telling the truth about who we are is our most powerful tool to bring about a shift in society's attitudes. Coming out is powerful in the political sense and personally liberating in changing the energy we waste in hiding the truth.

Coming out. Changing the tide of history. You can be a moving force in shattering the wall of silence. Together, we can assume the political might that could end discrimination forever; but not until we are visible. You can be a part of something very important. Only your personal involvement and commitment to a better world will make this possible.

On October 11, thousands of people from all walks of life will be making a decision to lead more open gay and lesbian lives. They'll be coming out. Telling lthe truth about yourself is a fundamental step in creating closer relationships with your family and friends. Below are a few lwlays you can come out.

Talk with your brother, sister, father, mother or child, and let them know more fully who you are.

Come out to a friend or colleague.

Contact, join or contribute to a local or national lesbian/gay organization. A community center application is printed on page 11.

Write to your elected officials to make sure they know they represent gay and lesbian constituents. One way of doing this is through the Speak Out Program of the Human Rights Campaign Fund, mentioned in a related article on page 17.

Coming out is an ongoing process, one step at a time. Celebrate National Coming Out Day on October 11. Take your next step. There is a national organization in Santa Fe that will be happy to give you more information. You can reach them directly by calling 505-982-2558, or writing to National Coming Out Day, P.O. Box 8270, Santa Fe, NM 87504. You are also welcome to contact the editors of *Community Vision* by mail or phone. This is year 5 of National Coming Out Day. You might enjoy being a part of it!▼

Coming Out for Same Sex Couples

by Demian

You have found the person with whom you want to spend the rest of your life. This person is your best friend, your partner in life, your lover. A small voice inside tells you, "For pity's sake, now just shut up, and don't let anybody know about it."

You heed this voice if you think that it would kill (or at least maim) your mother (or children, grandparents, etc.). Or, if you think you'll lose your job (or friends).

If you stan in the closet, what really gets killed is

National News

honesty and what you lose is self respect.

When you have a good relationship, it's worth singing about. And being open about your relationship is liberating. It allows you to receive emotional and even financial support.

Telling the truth about yourself makes your life visible and challenges the myths and lies. There are many decades-long, same-sex partnerships, though oppression has driven many couples to seek anonymity. Coming out can transform and nullify the effects of oppression. When enough couples come out, we will ultimately change the way an entire culture regards sexuality.

Hiding your sexual orientation guarantees a life of lying. When you lie about your relationship, you also force your partner to lie.

Lying destroys relationships as easily as it undermines individual lives. Just trying to maintain the secrecy of the closet puts excessive strain on a relationship -- more strain than dealing with most potential hostilities.

Hostile reactions may, or may not, result from visibility. It's possible you may receive an unkind remark from time to time, but lying to keep a relationship secret must be maintained *constantly*. It can leave you in a perpetual, if subtle, state of anxiety.

Further, differing levels of openness can be a source of relationship stress. In all cases, the partner who is least out dictates the "outness policy" for the relationship -- or conflict results.

Easing into outness. Sometimes the act of coming out is so small and natural you hardly think about it, such as the number of times you shop for groceries together. Eventually, the clerks see you as a couple.

Other times it is necessary to come out more strongly. If you want to legally protect your relationship, you need wills, powers of attorney and partnership agreements. These documents, which in some ways approximate legislated marriage rights, must be witnessed and notarized, requiring an additional act of coming out.

We also come out as a couple when we jointly apply for memberships, particularly "family" memberships.

You don't have to reveal your relationship when buying a home, but unless you say you are a couple, real estate people may show you places that don't suit your needs.

Pioneering, out, same-sex partners created a demand for marriage ceremonies. Now same-sex relationships are blessed by Metropolitan Community Churches, as well as some Unitarian, Episcopal, Presbyterian, Reform Jewish and Quaker denominations. These ceremonies, while not legally binding, can have enormous import to you, your friends and families of origin.

Same-sex couples often relate that just having a wedding legitimized their relationship in the eyes of relations and friends. The marriage ceremony is a grand form of coming out.

Coming out is critical at times of emergencies. Should your partner be incapacitated by illness or accident, only next of kin would be allowed near. You would have no voice in your partner's medical treatment unless you have assigned powers of attorney and are willing to be out to medical workers.

If you relationship is made clear to relatives long before your death, they are less likely to tell a court, "Our child must have been demented to will the house to a mere roommate," or rationalize keeping you apart in the event of an incapacitating illness.

Another significant time to come out is when facing discrimination. Being open allows you to confront it and pursue legal redress.

However, one area in which silence may still be prudent is when the custody of children is at stake. The courts have been slow to recognize the best interests of children, often denying custody to the more fit parent who happens to be openly homosexual and living with a same-sex partner. Some courageous couples are challenging this prejudice, but with uncertain odds at this tim.e

The big bucks. Another reward for being out is financial. Over 20 municipalities and some private businesses now offer domestic partnership benefits. If you're out, your partner could be eligible for medical insurance or other benefits. Such employment benefits can amount to more than $50,000 during the course of a career.

You cannot advocate or benefit from these programs while in the closet. Even "confidential" programs require at least one clerk, a computer system and perhaps an insurance company to handle the information.

Legalized marriage for same-sex partners would offer yet more. Out, vocal partners make it impossible for lawmakers to claim their district has no homosexuals. We can't expect them to support same-sex marriage for invisible voters.

Most lesbian and gay men have found that the longer families of origin are aware of your orientation and know your partner, the more likely they will become accepting and supportive. Once relatives know about your relationship, you can ask that your partner be included in family holidays. With greater understanding, often relatives will present wedding or anniversary gifts, particularly if told that it is appropriate.

Because this is uncharted territory in American culture, it is up to us to suggest to our friends, co-workers and relatives exactly how they should treat our relationship -- the same as they treat opposite-sex relationships. If you're not out to your parents and friends, you miss the chance for their support.▼

This article was written for National Coming Out Day, October 11, 1991. Demian holds a doctorate of education and is co-publisher of ***Partners Magazine for Gay & Lesbian Couples****, Box 9685, Seattle, WA 98109. (206) 784-1519.*

Community Meetings

October Meetings

B-GALA (CC). No report.

CGRA. October 2, Election of Officers, 5-8 PM. October 5, Board meeting at 6:30 PM; General Membership meeting at 7:30 PM. October 19, Board meeting at 7:00 PM. October 23-24-25, IGRA Finals in Phoenix.

CO-AOP. October 12 and 26, 7:15 PM. Call the Helpine for location.

DIGNITY meets October 3 and 17 at 7:00 PM at Sacred Heart Church, 21st Street at West Colorado. Call 635-5773 for details.

GLASG. Mondays at 5:30 PM.

GLAA. Every Monday and Friday at 8:00 PM. Call the Helpline for lcation.

GALA (UCCS). October will feature workshops and lectures throughout the month. Call any of the following numbers for details and information: 593-3108, 593-3663 or 471-9763.

GIC. No report.

GTO. October 24 at 7:00 PM. Call Alan (596-4485) or Laurie (473-6372) for information. This month's meeting will be held in a NEW location; don't show up at the wrong place.

THE GROUP. Oct 23, Pot Luck meeting at the usual time.

The Helpline. Volunteer meeting October 5, 5:30 PM. Call the Helpline for location and time.

LCC. October 10 at 10:30 AM. New location this month only; call Carol & Shellie (570-1599) or LeAnne & Dena (597-7685) for details

MABLE. No report.

MCC. Sunday church services at 5:00 PM. Bingo Fridays at 7:00 PM, and Saturdays at noon. October 10, Goods & Services Auction at the Penthouse, 8:00 - 10:00 PM. October 11, choir rehearsal, 3:00 PM. October 7 and 21, Bible study, 7:00 - 9:00 PM. October 29, Halloween Party, 7:00 PM.

MOM. No report.

NEW PHAZES. Collating party at Abaton Books, October 27 at 6:00 PM.

P-FLAG. October 14, 6:30 PM.

PPGLCC. Board of directors meeting at October 24, 9:30 AM at Worner Center.

POLITICAL

Just Vote No. October 8, regular meeting, 4:30 PM. Call 635-4802 for details.

EPOC. October 4, regular meeting at 6:30 PM, Worner Center. October 16, "Voices," performance art benefit at the Unitarian Church. October 17, Conversation with Richard Roth, a Franciscan brother, on Amendment 2 (call 632-6189 for details). October 18, regular meeting at 6:30 PM, Worner Center.

S-CAP. October 13, board meeting at 5:30 PM at the S-CAP office. October 14, Open House at S-CAP offices, 4:30 - 6:30 PM, followed by Celebration of Life in Acacia Park, 7:00 - 8:00 PM. October 28, Speaker's Training Bureau at 5:30 PM.

THURSDAY NITE LIVE. October 15, meeting only (no pot luck) at 7:00 PM, Unitarian Church.

UNITED COURT OF THE RISING SUN EMPIRE. October 11, Coronation voting, 12:00 - 5:00 PM at Branding Iron. October 16-17 Coronation Hospitality Suite at Holiday Inn Central. October 17, Coronation, 5:00 PM City Auditorium.

UPSTART PERFORMING ENSEMBLE. October 1-4 and October 8-11, "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof," 8:00 PM. October 28-31, Grand Guinol performances at 8:00 PM with additional midnight shows on October 30-31. Half price for dressing in costumes.▼

Are you a chronic complainer?

Join the Community Center today and start actively making changes!

We'll all feel better!

Help Needed with the Community Center

The community center needs volunteers for the following projects and committees. To help with any of them, please call Norma at 635-4802. Go ahead and tell us all the projects that you're interested in, even if you only have time to take on one, so that we have some flexibility in assigning people to committees.

Community Vision needs people to edit submissions and proof the final copy, and people to help write articles (or at least track down stories that other people can report on). Also needed: people to help stuff envelopes and other collating involved in mailing out the newsletter.

The **Fund-Raising Committee** needs help in both doing short term fund-raising to keep the center solvent and in developing long term funding strategies.

The **Helpline** could always use some more people to be home weekday evenings or Saturday afternoons to take telephone calls.

The **Community History Committee** needs volunteers who will be responsible for creating an archive of community and community center materials, and for compiling a history of the lesbian and gay community in Colorado Springs and the surrounding area.

The **Youth and Family Outreach Committee** welcomes volunteers on such projects as improving school districts' sensitivity to the problems confronting gay and lesbian youth.

The **Communications Committee** needs volunteers to help develop the Audiotext Hotline and other communications projects.

The **Program Development Committee** needs volunteers to decide what programs or services the center should offer, and to find ways to implement those programs or services.

The **Building Committee** will be assessing the needs for, and trying to find, a building for the community center.

The **Violence and Discrimination Reporting Committee** will be working with the Helpline to accurately record and report instances of discrimination and violence.

The **Membership Development Committee** needs help in boosting the community center's membership.

The **Business Directory Committee** will be compiling a listing of businesses wishing to solicit clientele from the lesbian and gay community.

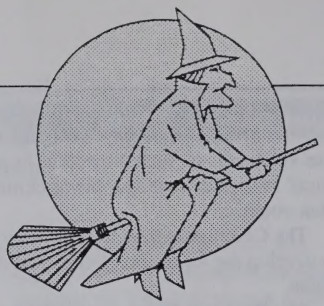
The **General Staff** — volunteers are needed who are willing to be assigned to various tasks as they are needed, and not necessarily be assigned to a particular committee. ▼

Friday Night, Saturday Noon
21st Street Bingo
1102 South 21st Street

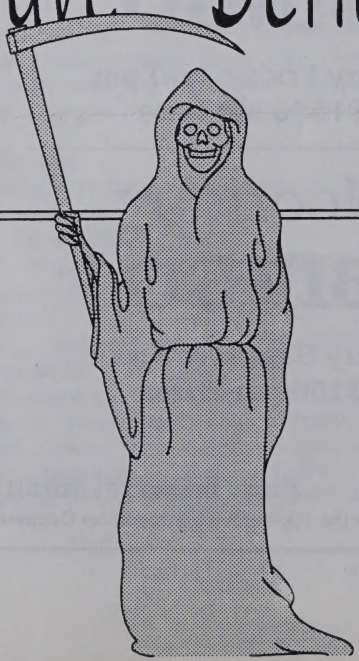
Friday Niters
BINGO
Every Friday 7:00 pm
$1500 in Prizes

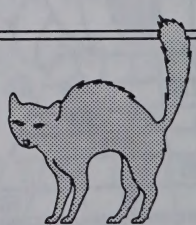
Noonday
BINGO
Every Saturday Noon
$1500 in Prizes

Fun, Entertainment, Prizes
Hosted by the Pikes Peak Metropolitan Community Church



Community Center Members Have Better Halloweens!





COMMUNITY VISION

OCTOBER 1992

Events Calendar

LEGEND

CGRA - Colorado Gay Rodeo Ass'n
B-GALA - Bisexual, Gay & Lesbian Alliance: Colorado College
CMI - Count Me In
CO-AOP - Coming Out, An Ongoing Process
EPOC - 632-6189
GIC - Gender Identity Center
GLAA - Gay & Lesbian Alcoholics Anonymous
GLASG - Gay & Lesbian Adolescent Support Group
GTO - Good Times Organization
The Group - The Group: Gay Educators Pot Luck Social
JVN - Just Vote No (635-4802)
LCC - Lesbians Choosing Children
LGRC - Lesbians & Gays Raising Children
MABLE - Married But Lesbian
MCC - Metropolitan Community Church
MOM - Men Oriented Men
NP - *New Phazes*
OTA - One To Another
P-FLAG - Parents & Friends of Lesbians & Gays
S-CAP - Southern Colorado AIDS Project (578-9092)

SEPTEMBER 1992

		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

NOVEMBER 1992

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2 CGRA Elections - 5:00 MCC Bingo - 7:00 GLAA - 8:00	3 MCC Bingo - noon Dignity-7:00
				Upstart Players		
4 MCC - 5:00 EPOC - 6:30	5 GLASG - 5:30 Helpline - 5:30 CGRA Board - 6:30 CGRA M-Ship - 7:30 GLAA - 8:00	6	7 MCC Bible Study-7:00	8 JVN - 4:30	9 Voter Registration Deadline Today !!! MCC Bingo - 7:00 GLAA - 8:00	10 LCC - 10:30 AM MCC Bingo - noon
Upstart Players				Upstart Players		
11 Nat'l Coming Out Day Coronation Vote-11:0 MCC - 5:00	12 GLASG - 5:30 CO-AOP - 7:15 GLAA - 8:00	13 S-CAP Board - 5:30	14 S-CAP Open Hse-4:30 P-FLAG - 6:30 S-CAP's Celebration of Life-Acacia - 7:00	15 Thu Nite Live - 7:00	16 MCC Bingo - 7:00 GLAA - 8:00 Fred Small - 8:00 EPOC's Voices - 8:00	17 MCC Bingo - noon Coronation - 5:00 Dignity - 7:00
Upstart Players						
18 MCC - 5:00 EPOC - 6:30	19 Poinsettia Deadline GLASG - 5:30 CGRA Board - 7:00 GLAA - 8:00	20	21 MCC Bible Study-7:00	22	23 The Group-Pot Luck MCC Bingo - 7:00 GLAA - 8:00	24 PPGLCC Brd-9:30 A MCC Bingo - noon GTO - 7:00
25 MCC - 5:00	26 GLASG - 5:30 CO-AOP - 7:15 GLAA - 8:00	27 *New Phazes* - 6:00	28 S-CAP Speaker's Training - 5:30	29 MCC Halloween-7:00	30 MCC Bingo - 7:00 GLAA - 8:00	31 HALLOWEEN MCC Bingo - noon
				Upstart Players - Theater of Cruelty & Pain		

Fun & New Events for October!

Always an originator & never an imitator!

October 7
Imperial Court Campaign Show
10:00 pm

October 10
MCC & EPOColorado Benefit Auction
8:00 pm

October 17
The Penthouse Male Review!!
We've brought them back for more!
10:00 pm

October 31
Halloween Bash!
A free "witches brew" for anyone in costume.
Costume Contest with a $200 grand prize!
Must register by 11:00

The Penthouse

NO on 2

Only Pike's Peak has a better view.
1715 North Academy Blvd., Colorado Springs, CO 80909
(719) 597-3314